



The Owens' Ping

SERVING THE MEN WHO SERVED ABOARD

USS ROBERT A OWENS DDK, DDE, DD 827

WINTER 2018 - EDITION

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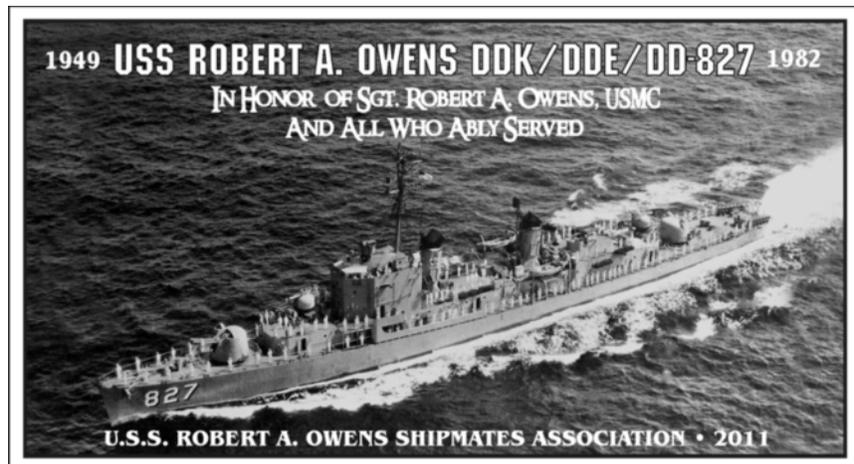
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SECTION 1: To further the remembrance of the deeds of the USS Robert A. Owens (DDK/DDE/DD-827), and all of the officers and enlisted crew members who served in her during the vessels thirty-two years of U.S. Navy service.

SECTION 2: To promote the bond of friendship between all of the crew members who served in her during the years of commissioned service through newsletters, web site, Internet, and reunions..



Commissioned
1949

Decommissioned
1982



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PRESIDENTS CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Good day to all my shipmates and to all those serving, who have served and those who will serve our great country in the United States military. I'm writing this on Veteran's Day which I thought appropriate and am amazed by the wonderful outpouring of recognition the veterans are receiving. It was quite different for many of us in the 60s when we returned from our service and it seemed an unpopular thing to recognize anyone who served or was serving. I'm grateful to see that things have changed. Thanks to all of you for what you did in serving our country.

We were speaking of our service in the military the other day and someone asked me if I went to Vietnam. I responded that I hadn't and he kind of blew it off as though I hadn't done anything. To which I responded to this person who "had done nothing" and never served that I had left my home on April 10, 1967 and didn't return until February 10, 1969 (with the exception of a 5 day leave to come home and be the best man in my brother's wedding). I explained that even though nobody was shooting at me, I did the job the Navy sent me to do and did it to the best of my ability. I was gone from my home for almost 2 years of my life; I was earning about \$5000 a year working when I left, for a job that paid me about \$800 a year with absolutely no financial help from anywhere else. I explained that serving is sacrifice in many ways, a check that we write up to and including our very lives. I do not regret or begrudge those two years one bit; what I do begrudge is someone who thinks less of anyone's service just because they didn't get shot – particularly from someone who never served himself. All of us served in the manner in which our government ordered and all of us should stand proud. Every job needs to be filled in order for us to have the freedoms we enjoy.

The upcoming reunion is getting closer and is less than a year away now. There are reservation forms in this issue that you can print and complete and mail to me between now and then. The sooner the better. As we get closer I will be putting our reunion notices in the appropriate magazines and papers to try and reach everyone who served aboard the OWENS. I view this as an excellent opportunity to gain new members and possibly "re-up" some former ones. We can make our hotel reservations now (don't have to pay until then) and have 25 rooms reserved; beyond that it's strictly what's available. Bobby Williams and I have reviewed all the information, forms, trips, hotel, etc. and are quite confident that this will be a great reunion with something for us all.

As we get closer to the reunion and the notices go into the papers and magazines I'm sure I'll be swamped with emails and calls from all sorts of vendors wanting to provide a "free" service for us. Nothing's free. I've already had some vendors emailing offering their free services in order to sell their product to all of us individually – photos, nick-naks, transportation, etc. I've turned them all down. My experience is that they turn into more than a nuisance and take up more of our time than necessary. I don't blame them, I just don't want them. This is our time – not theirs.

I have to send out kudos to Ed Greene, our treasurer, who keeps close tabs on our finances, collects our dues, pays our donations for memorials, and forwards our financial information to the board every month for scrutiny. Someone contacted Ed the other day and told him that Larry wanted him to send \$3450 immediately to them for expenses incurred. Ed immediately called me, did not send anything, and verified it was a hoax. This is the kind of person I want guarding our money!! Thanks Ed, great job. Which brings up another point, make sure your dues are up to date. If you don't know, contact Ed and see where you are. (I need to do that now.)

All the best to everyone for the upcoming holiday seasons. From Ellen and me, Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year!!



2019 Reunion - Advance Tentative Planning

REUNION INFORMATION & UPDATES

The reunion committee has been busy scheduling the next reunion in 2019 and we have finalized the hotel and day-trips. In keeping with the wishes of the organization we're having it during the week and not over a weekend and we have moved it three weeks away from the Labor Day weekend. We certainly hope this gives more encouragement to attend by all our members. Here's a list of the information as follows:

REUNION DATES: September 30 to October 4, 2019. We'll check-in on Monday, 9/30, side trips on Tuesday and Wednesday 10/1-2, business meeting and banquet on Thursday, 10/3 and check-out from the hotel on Friday 10/4. Of course, you can come early and stay late if you want, just let the hotel know the extra dates. But be advised, there is a significant increase in the room rates for Friday and Saturday. (See the Hotel reservation sheets enclosed.)

HOTEL: Town and Country Inn and Suites
2008 Savannah Highway
Charleston, SC
www.thetownandcountryinn.com

You may make your reservations now by calling the hotel or by submitting the enclosed reservation form. The group code is: USSROA. The room rates are displayed at the top of the reservation form. As of now the hotel has reserved 25 rooms for us; if we don't fill them all we have no obligation to pay for the remainder. Make your reservations now; 25 rooms will go quickly.

SIDE TRIPS: We have two trips scheduled. Tuesday, 10/1, we will be doing the Patriots Point w/ Lunch in the CPO Lounge on the USS YORKTOWN. This trip includes the transportation, guides and lunch and is \$65 per person. The "Day in Historic Charleston Tour" on Wednesday includes transportation, tour guide and we will be on our own for lunch in the Old City Market where we can eat and shop. The cost for this trip is \$40 per person. (See the Tour & Event reservation sheet)

BANQUET: Our banquet will be a buffet style dinner held in Salons B, C, and D on Thursday evening at 6:00 p.m. A guarantee of 40 or more people is required. The cost is \$45 per person. The menu is:

Southern Fried Chicken (a house specialty)	Lemon Layer Cake
Chopped Sirloin Steaks	Pecan Pie
Charleston Red Rice (a house specialty)	
Southern Lima Beans	
Stir Fried Vegetables	

MEETING, BANQUET AND HOSPITALITY ROOMS: To get a feel of where our rooms are located, please go to the hotel's web site or view a layout of the property on the attached page. Our banquet is in Salons B, C, and D, and our hospitality room is Salon A. There is adequate room in each for our needs. In order for these rooms to be complimentary, we need to fill an average of 15 paid guest rooms per night. Otherwise, the organization will be charged for the rooms. .



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SUMMATION: (Continued from Page 3)

As you can see, most of the things we do depend on the membership supporting the reunion. The costs of our trips is based on a minimum of 35 people participating and the cost of the banquet is based on a minimum of 40 persons in attendance. The reunion committee has done it's best to control the prices of the trips, banquet, etc. When we think of the costs, we have to remember for the trips it includes transportation in a nice, air-conditioned tour bus with driver provided, tour guides, some food, the cost of the tours and the charge for the tour company. For the banquet, it's the food, wait staff, gratuity, tax, 3 banquet rooms; and somewhere we have to remember the "free" hospitality room. Bottom line, it costs to have fun, so don't let the prices deter you from attending. Nothing we do is mandatory so you are not obligated to participate in everything; but the committee feels as though each item is a good value compared to anything or anywhere else.

We cannot stress attendance enough. The reunion is less than a year away and each of us has time to budget and plan. We only do this once every other year, so please plan to attend and make this a memorable reunion.

The reunion committee, Bobby Williams and Larry McCoskey, has worked together to establish a reservation form and a price guide for all trips and the banquet and it is printed in this issue of the PING. At this time please begin to make reservations and submit your checks for the activities you choose. We have established a cut-off date of August 15, 2019, as the hotel and tour companies require advance down payments 30 days out. This also gives Bobby and Larry time to make name tags, put together welcome packages, etc. **However, remember that the hotel reservations must be made separately with the hotel.**

Any updates or changes will be posted immediately on the website pages designated for the 2019 Reunion and if major changes are made, USPS notifications will be sent out as well.





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2019 REUNION TOUR & EVENT RESERVATION FORM

Reunion Dates: September 30 thru October 3, 2019

Place: Town and Country Inn and Suite
2008 Savannah Highway, Charleston, SC
Hotel reservations must be made directly with the hotel.

**For information on hotel reservations please see the
"2019 Reunion Hotel Reservation Form" for instructions

REUNION FUNCTIONS AND COSTS

Number of persons attending: _____

Name(s): _____

Phone where you can be contacted: _____

Dates Aboard OWENS: _____

Reunion Fee, \$20 per person: _____ Total: _____

Tuesday side trip to Patriot's Point w/ lunch in the CPO mess on the USS YORKTOWN,
including transportation, \$65 per person:

Number attending: _____ Total: _____

Wednesday side trip "A DAY IN HISTORIC CHARLESTON", a tour of the city, including
transportation w/ free time in the Old City Market, \$40 per person:

Number attending: _____ Total: _____

Thursday night banquet, \$45 per person:

Number attending: _____ Total: _____

Total Submitted: _____

Please mail this completed form and remittance by 8/15/19 to:

Larry McCoskey
4110 Dolphin Rd.
Louisville, KY 40220-4701



The Owens' Ping

USS ROBERT A. OWENS

September 30 Through October 4, 2019

2019 REUNION HOTEL RESERVATION FORM

Town & Country Inn & Suites

2008 Savannah Highway, Charleston, SC 29407

Tel: 843-571-1000 Toll Free: 800-334-6660 Fax: 843-766-9444

www.thetownandcountryinn.com

\$105.00 + 14% tax per room per night, Sunday through Thursday evenings.

\$169.00 + 14% tax per room per night, Friday or Saturday evenings.

Group rates are not subject to further discounts or any current promotions.

A Credit Card number is required to guarantee this reservation**.

The Town & Country Inn and Suites is a non-smoking Hotel.

Your Name: _____ Telephone #: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Arrival Date: _____ Departure Date: _____ # Rooms: _____

Roommate Name(s): _____

Room Type Preferred: _____ Contemporary King _____ Contemporary Two Queens

Special Requests: _____

**Although we cannot guarantee special requests, every effort will be made to meet your request. Group reservations are blocked several days prior to arrival. Although the Hotel makes every effort to pre-block group reservations as close as possible, we do not guarantee the proximity of rooms due to numerous variables, including varying arrival dates and room types.*

Deposit Enclosed: _____ **OR**

Credit Card Number: _____ Exp: _____

Card Holder Signature Authorizing Hotel's Use of Credit Card: _____

**** (PLEASE NOTE: Those guests sending a check deposit should be aware that a credit card imprint and valid, state-issued ID will be necessary upon check in. Should you wish to pay for your stay with cash, a credit card imprint and valid ID will still be required upon arrival to secure your accommodations. All cash payments are accepted upon departure. Never send cash through the mail.)**

Cancellation Policy: 24 hours prior to arrival date.

Check-In Time: 3:00 pm Check-Out Time: 12:00 pm

Group Code: **USSROA**

To confirm accommodations, please return form to the Hotel, or call directly, by August 30, 2019.

The accommodations block will not be held beyond this date.

We look forward to seeing you in September!!



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Remember to shop the Ships Store for your Christmas Shopping.!!

**USS ROBERT A. OWENS DDK/DDE/DD-827
SHIPS STORE INVENTORY EFFECTIVE December 2018**

ITEM	ON HAND	UNIT COST
Shirt, Polo, Golf, Blue (Medium)	5	\$28
Shirt, Polo, Golf, Blue (Large)	2	\$28
Shirt, Polo, Golf, Blue (XL)	19	\$28
Shirt, Polo, Golf, Blue (XXL)	All Out	\$28
Shirt, Polo, Golf, Blue (XXXL)	4	\$28
Shirt, Polo, Golf, Gray (Medium)	All Out	\$23
Shirt, Tee, w/Pocket, Blue (Small)	13	\$18
Shirt, Tee, w/Pocket, Blue (Medium)	12	\$18
Shirt, Tee, w/Pocket, Blue (Large)	0	\$18
Shirt, Tee, w/Pocket, Blue (XL)	All Out	\$18
Shirt, Tee, Long Sleeve, Blue (Large)	All Out	\$19
Shirt, Tee, Long Sleeve, Blue (XL)	All Out	\$19
Shirt, Tee, Long Sleeve, Blue (XXL)	All Out	\$19
Sweat Shirt, Hooded, Zip-Up, Blue (XXL)	All Out	\$30
Cap, Baseball Style, Wool (Winter) (Adjustable)	1	\$17
Cap, Baseball Style, Mesh (Summer) (Adjustable)	2	\$17
Ships Patch, 1949-1964	14	\$3.50
Ships Patch, 1964-1982	50	\$6.00
Challenge Coin	85	\$10.00
Patch, Plank Owner	1	\$3
Pin, US Navy/Flag	1	\$3
Ships Magnet	21	\$2
Book, "Owens Saga"	96	\$15
Book, "Sea Tales" (Initial Edition)	1	\$7
Book, "Sea Tales" (Second Edition)	9	\$7

As always, to place an order for items; please list the items by name, quantity desired, and price with a total. Make your check payable to: Robert Owens Shipmates Association.

Mail your order and payment to:

**Mr. Keith Totsch
200 Sheridan Ct.
Waukegan, IL 60085**

Ktotsch@comcast.net



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This is the new ships patch that has been ordered as the 1964-1982 ships patch. Due to inflation over the years and since the last ordering, the price will now be \$6.00

The new shipment has arrived and now in stock with 50 available. Contact Keith Totsch at ktotsch@comcast.net or see the information on the ships stores page in this edition.



THE NEW "CHALLENGE COIN IS HERE.....!!!!!!

The Challenge Coin has arrived to the Ships Stores and Keith has 100 of them in stock. They sell for \$10.00 each and are available now.

Keith has asked me to tell you to please, when you order them, please include your phone number and email

address so that in the event of a problem with the order, he can check with you immediately. See the above patch Ad for information on how to contact Keith or go to the Ships Stores page of this edition for more info on how to order from him.

CORRECTED MEMBERSHIP REPORT

- 289 Current members on Master Roster (Includes 10 Spouses)
- 86 Currently are contacted by USPS mail
- 180 Currently are contacted by E-mail
- 24 Currently unable to be contacted by any known means (Please see web site for list of people)
- 231 Currently listed on the Honor Roll



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A DAY IN HISTORIC CHARLESTON

Tour Charleston's beautiful old historic district and enjoy the charming ambience found in centuries past. During your tour you will see many of the city's historic churches, take a stroll in one of our neighborhood parks, and drive the Military College of South Carolina known as the Citadel. View the lovely antebellum homes along the Battery, 18th century Rainbow Row, and magnificent public buildings for which Charleston is known. Throughout the tour, your guide will introduce you to stories of the past and present, magnificent public buildings, and other points of interest. Your tour will end at the Old City Market where you will enjoy free time for shopping and browsing, and lunch on your own at one of Charleston's many fine restaurants.

Duration: ***9:00am – 2:00pm***



PATRIOTS POINT TOUR

Tour Patriots Point, one of the world's largest naval and maritime museums. Visit the **USS Yorktown**, the famous fighting lady of World War II; the destroyer **USS Laffey**, a participant in the World War II D-Day landings at Normandy; the **Vietnam Era Naval Support Base** with its Sea Cobra and Huey helicopters; and the newly renovated **Congressional Medal of Honor** museum.

After you have worked up an appetite, enjoy a traditional hot "Navy" lunch in the Chief Petty Officer's Mess aboard the USS Yorktown!!

Duration: ***9:00am – 2:00pm w/Transportation***

